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farm ; in others, they advanced the passage money, receiving in return a promise to repay a much larger sum out of the immigrant's first earnings in this country. The immigrants land penniless or deeply in debt ; in either case relying for employment upon the agents on this side of the water. These men exploit them in a variety of ways. They board and lodge them, making enormous rents out of tumble-down tenement houses ; they sell them bills of exchange and prepaid passages for their families ; they find them employment, receiving a bonus which is euphemistically termed a "present to the boss" ; they furnish laborers to railroad companies, receiving the contract to board and lodge them, in which case the company deducts the board money from the wages of the laborers. So numerous are these sources of profit that it seems as if the agents were not particularly concerned as to the repayment of the original passage money, lest their victims should escape from their influence and control. It appears from the testimony that, although there were three or four thousand Italians in New York unable to obtain work, yet the agents were constantly bringing over others. In the case of immigrants from South Italy there has thus been established a complete system of "induced immigration" — on the basis, however, of pure freedom of contract. A mass of contradictory evidence yields in this case an important practical result ; and other portions of the testimony, if rightly treated, would yield similar results.

It is to be regretted that this committee, after undertaking the responsibility of an official investigation, and after compelling so many persons to attend and testify and, in many cases, to disclose their private affairs, should not have had the ability or the disposition to give us a scientific analysis of this great social movement and its underlying causes. If the only result reached by such a committee, armed with all the powers of the law and expending so much time and money, is denunciation of manifest evils and the proposal of impossible remedies, the general public may well despair of finding any solution of the problems which our complicated civilization forces upon us. Such investigations should be undertaken seriously and in the true scientific spirit, or they should not be undertaken at all.

RICHMOND MAYO SMITH.

Arnold Toynbee. By F. C. MONTAGUE. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, 7th Series, I. Baltimore, 1889. — 70 pp.

It was a happy thought on the part of Professor Adams to request, and it was a wise decision on Mr. Montague's part to allow the publication of this sketch of the life of Arnold Toynbee in the *Johns Hopkins*

Studies. England and America have both to gain by a closer sympathy and fellowship between the economists and social reformers of the two countries. The very appearance of this memoir, and of the account of Toynbee Hall in London and the Neighborhood Guild in New York by which it is accompanied, is a tacit confession that the circumstances of the Old and New Worlds are no longer so dissimilar as they but lately seemed to be.

Mr. Montague has performed his labor of love faithfully and with delicacy. Purposely avoiding strong contrasts of light and shade, and using the quietest colors, he has painted for us the picture of a man who even in our own time, though breathed upon by all the influences of the modern spirit and restrained in all his work for his fellowmen by the scientific conscience, could yet live the saintly life. It is the highest praise that can be given to the memoir to say that it is not unworthy of its subject.

Yet welcome as it is, it fails, in the judgment of the present reviewer, to bring into due prominence those features in Toynbee's life and action wherein above all lies his importance in the recent history of English thought. Toynbee is important, not so much as a philanthropist or as an example of unselfishness, still less as a "church reformer," but as an economist, as the initiator of a new and fertile development in English political economy. To many even of his personal friends, and in no place more than in Oxford, this is a hard saying. So much was expected of him and he left behind so little! What fragments of his writings and teachings were put together after his death are so disjointed, so full of apparent inconsistencies and changes of opinion! It is so clear that both in his discussion of theory and in his practical proposals he did but follow other men — Comte, Cliffe Leslie, Walker, Bagehot, Mundella, Sedley Taylor! Even his historical work might after all seem rather an indication of what he might have done than in itself any considerable achievement. But a man's importance is to be measured not by his consistency nor by the bulk of his writings, but by the impression he has been able to produce. That impression in Toynbee's case may perhaps be defined somewhat as follows:

First, at a time when the study of political economy had sunk to its lowest point in England, he did perhaps more than any other man to create a new interest in it, a new belief in its seriousness as a scientific discipline, a new hope that in it might be found some help in the solution of pressing economic problems.

Secondly, he turned this new interest in the direction of the historical investigation of social development, and of the direct examination of existing phenomena. His merit in this respect is none the less because he himself spoke with diffidence of the historical method and did his

best to convince himself that the traditional method of deduction was indispensable. The whole bent of his mind was toward history and toward the concrete descriptive presentation of social facts. Any one who compares, for instance, the account of the economic changes of the later part of last century and the earlier half of this in his lecture on *Industry and Democracy*, with his attempt at constructing a theory of wages in his lecture on *Wages and Natural Law*, will see how much more successful he is in the former, how much more the former contributes to the understanding of modern difficulties. This is the direction in which the influence of Toynbee's example is likely to be most effective. It is seen already in the character of the work undertaken by the "Toynbee trust." And it must not be forgotten that, fragmentary as are the lectures on the *Industrial Revolution*, they yet form the only history we yet possess in English of that momentous change; and that, to mention only one authority, they seemed sufficiently valuable to that eminent publicist, M. Boutmy, for him to base upon them a great part of his work on England.

Thirdly, Toynbee was the first professed economist in England to distinctly recognize the element of good in the scientific socialism of to-day, and to see in a cautious extension of the functions of the state one of the most effectual preventatives of revolution.

Toynbee's resemblance in these two last respects to the historical school in Germany, and in especial to the *Kathedersocialisten*, is, of course, too marked to escape notice. It is therefore necessary to observe that Toynbee was but scantily acquainted with German economic discussions, and that whatever impulses from outside affected him came rather from Comte, from Ruskin, from Stubbs and from Maine.

The reviewer may perhaps be allowed, before bringing this notice to an end, to add a word or two of personal reminiscence to Mr. Montague's account of his friend. He had read through one or two of the ordinary text-books when he went to Toynbee for advice as to how to continue his economic studies. The advice was characteristic: "Take some one subject, *e.g.*, wages, and, beginning with Adam Smith, read in chronological order what each noteworthy English economist has said upon the subject, and see if you can make out the way in which various doctrines have arisen and been modified." The reviewer may be wrong, but it is his impression that few, if any other, economists would then have been found in England who thus made the historical *development* of theory the governing principle in their teaching.

He remembers again how for three terms, during 1881 and 1882, he with sixty or seventy others, mostly undergraduates, but some few graduates like himself, listened Saturday after Saturday in Balliol Hall to Toynbee's lectures on the industrial revolution; and how that

slim, graceful figure seemed to tremble and his hands were nervously strained together, as he tried to make us realize how vast and awful a revolution it had been. And then from the spacious hall and pleasant college garden his thoughts go to a dingy room in a miserable tavern, where, amid smoke and the clatter of alepots, the sensitive and overwrought scholar presented himself for the suffrages of his fellow-citizens, and told them how much might be done even with our existing social machinery, if those who guided it did but understand of what it was capable.

W. J. ASHLEY.

The Consumption of Wealth. By SIMON N. PATTEN, Ph.D., Professor of Political Economy, Wharton School of Finance. Publications of the University of Pennsylvania, Political Economy and Public Law Series, No. 4. Philadelphia, 1889.

The underlying idea of this essay is an interesting one. It is this. As nations advance, their habits of consumption change. What was an advantage in the struggle for existence at one period becomes a disadvantage at another. The nation which can best adapt its habits to its environment is most likely to prevail. True economy in consumption marks a decisive superiority on the part of the race which practises it. Professor Patten attempts to show in outline the effect of this process of survival upon economic conditions. The interest of the problem renders the inadequacy of its treatment quite disappointing. The idea is not well carried out. The author makes grave mistakes in deduction, and highly questionable statements of fact.

To study the effect of changes of consumption, we must first know how equilibrium is secured under given conditions of consumption. The statical solution must precede the dynamical. This part of the work was brilliantly performed by Jevons in his *Theory of Political Economy*. The essential correctness of Jevons' solution has never been challenged. The criticisms of the Austrian writers deal with points of detail which do not materially affect the purpose in hand. Professor Patten recognizes the need of a preliminary analysis of this kind. But instead of using that of Jevons he develops one of his own. He probably thinks it an advantage to avoid the use of the differential calculus. But in so doing he falls into serious errors which render his whole treatment of the subject incorrect.

He assumes that men will always seek to get the best *ratio* of pleasure to pain. This is not true. It would be nearer the truth to say that they will seek to get the greatest *excess* of pleasure over pain. Suppose that in a given time one course of action involves two units of pain and four of pleasure; while another involves five units of pain and eight